

# The Pork-BolTeR



ISSUE 95, March 2010

FREE/DONATION

## As politicians unleash the bulldozers and the bullsh\*t, we say: Democracy? What a joke!

NOW we have finally pulled clear of the worst winter for nearly half a century, what delights lie ahead of us this Spring?

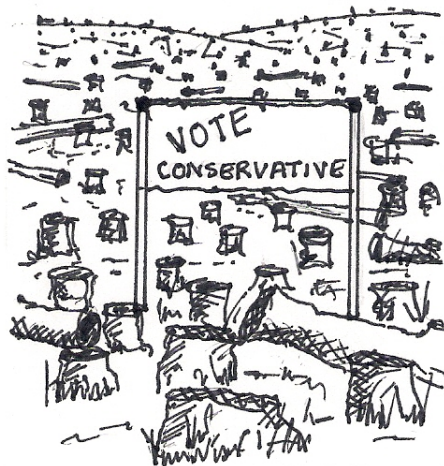
Well, on the one hand Worthing council looks all set to give the go-ahead to the massive West Durrington development which will destroy ancient *Titnore Woods* - once the bailiffs have violently evicted the plucky eco-protesters still mounting guard in the trees.

On the other hand those very same politicians will be urging the people of this town to **vote** for their party and will try to pretend that they care about the environment and the welfare of ordinary local people. Both of these are, of course, monumental and shameless lies.

Just to rewind to Titnore Woods for a moment, observant readers may recall that in our last issue we were talking about a decision to be taken on January 28. So what happened?

Well, the council moved the date back. This was ostensibly to give objectors more time to wade through the masses of detail with which the corporate applicants hoped to kill off any attempt to scrutinise their hideous profiteering plan.

But then, amidst much muttering about 'security concerns', the town hall bigwigs announced that instead of the original evening meeting, the Titnore decision would now be taken on a Monday afternoon. In other words, they don't want too many Worthing residents, most of whom sadly have to work to earn a crust, turning up and voicing their disgust at the nauseating sight of their supposed representatives ignoring the clear will of the bor-



... you know it makes sense!

ough's population and allowing property speculators to destroy a precious piece of our landscape.

Having said that, there will still be a protest outside the Assembly Hall in Stoke Abbott Road, at 1.30pm on Monday March 15, before the planning meeting starts at 2pm.

So get down there if you can, but don't expect the *Great British Commitment to Democracy* to extend to allowing you to express an opinion. Look at what happened to the Titnore protesters who had the temerity to unfurl a banner at the official opening of the

new Tesco mega-ugly store at Durrington on February 25.

*The Argus* (February 26) described scenes worthy of China or the old USSR, as they were "tackled to the ground by officers" having been told that they were "trespassing" by standing outside the supermarket.

We look forward to more glorious democracy in the next few months as we are asked to decide which political party should take over the fine work of allowing us all to be ripped off by bankers, forcing us to work until we drop dead to pay off the same bankers' debts which our rulers have kindly agreed to sort out on our behalf, and, of course, passing new laws to stop us doing anything about this rather depressing state of affairs.

They don't even care that most people have twigged that **all the politicians from all the parties are all exactly the same**. They will just keep on acting out their general election charade and keep up the pretence that the public have some kind of say in the fundamental way their corrupt, hypocritical, scam of a system is run.

**Pah! You won't catch us in the polling stations! As a sage once remarked - if voting changed anything they would have banned it by now!**

\* For more info on Titnore see [www.protectourwoodland.co.uk](http://www.protectourwoodland.co.uk) or [www.titnore.wordpress.com](http://www.titnore.wordpress.com).

\* For more info on an anti-election campaign in Worthing go to [www.worthinganarchists.blogspot.com](http://www.worthinganarchists.blogspot.com)

### Pork-scratchings

MORE trouble for Worthing's top drug dealer, on top of the lengthy list in issue 93. A US Congressional committee found that *GlaxoSmith Kline* "tried to **intimidate independent scientists** and deliberately misrepresented medical data to rebut safety concerns over a lucrative diabetes treatment", reported *The Guardian* on February 23.

THE WINTER weather may have scuppered the train services, but it didn't stop the onward march (*as in jackboots*) of the police state. Latest highlights include a 'South Coast Partnership' police plan to use military-style CCTV drones to spy on protesters and others (*Guardian*, January 23), the news that air passengers 'have no right' to refuse naked body scans (*Guardian*, Jan 27), the deployment of police armed with

50,000-volt Taser guns on the railway and tube in London (*Evening Standard*, December 8), and the official labelling of eco-activists as 'low-level terrorists' (*Guardian*, Jan 27).

A MIGHTY new organisation has been formed to celebrate and protect our local countryside. The *Worthing Downlanders* have emerged from the successful *Stop the Cissbury Sell-Off* campaign and are positively bursting with ideas and enthusiasm. They are setting up a new website, but in the meantime go to [www.scsco.co.uk](http://www.scsco.co.uk)

THE enclosure/theft of public space in Maybridge (*see previous issues*) continues, with 'temporary' measures near the old boys' club turning out to in fact be **hedge-planting!**

THE people behind last year's G20 protests are staging a *Mayday Election Meltdown* on Saturday May 1. There is to be a carnival in Parliament Square, London, rumoured to

involve converging marches carrying effigies of politicians Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Nick Griffin, ready for democratic beheading. Latest updates on our website.

*WORTHING Alliance* has been in hibernation since Christmas, but is emerging, refreshed and ready for action, on Thursday March 25, 8pm at The Jolly Brewers in Clifton Road, Worthing (*not far from the station*), for another evening of campaign updates, sparkling debate and beer.

FINALLY some disturbing news regarding the personal lives of Worthing's elderly folk. *The Worthing Herald's* report on February 18 about 'sex toys' being on sale next to children's socks (*oh, the horror!*) at *Poundland* quoted a spokeswoman for the Montague Street shop as claiming: "I've seen women in their 80s buy packs of four or five of them." Veteran morality crusader and expert pornography confiscator Maurice Morrison was unavailable for comment.

# Gil: a scourge of all injustice

**EVERYONE** connected with The Porkbolter was devastated to learn of the death of our friend Gil (Michael Gilbert) just before the New Year. Although he had been slowed down by his heart condition in recent months, he kept going right to the end, fighting injustice on a large and small scale and helping out his many friends.

We have received a number of tributes to Gil and you can see them all on a special page on our website at [www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/Gil.html](http://www.eco-action.org/porkbolter/Gil.html). There's not space for them all in full here, but here is an edited selection:

I was in a black hole when Gil happened along to pull me out. He used endless, patient listening and logical freethinking advice to put issues I found overwhelming completely into proportion.

He really was a friend you could rely on at three in the morning - in the long dark night of the soul. He earned a very large part of my degree with his calming influence when exams loomed and his detached view on conventional criteria. He could be as prickly as his beloved cacti, on occasion and always had a barter or exchange deal underway, with skill well honed over years of dealing in antiques ....and suchlike.

Yet nothing was too much trouble: if it was for someone else. Even his spectacles bear witness to how little time he spent on himself. Held together with Blue tack and modified by cello tape, they too will be going to do good in a developing country, once they are renovated. Someone, somewhere will see the world the way that Gil saw it. That is a very rare and precious thing.

**Dawn**

Worthing's loss, humanity's loss and a loss to all who knew him.

I was lucky enough to know Gil for the last seven years and privileged to have been able to spend lots of time with him, whether it be playing chess, discussing life and humans and their funny ways or listening to his brilliant anecdotes. Recently I was invited for a quick chat at 18:00 and left at half past midnight with the time having absolutely flown by and realising what a lucky guy I was to have heard the tales about the RAF, his time at University, the market garden, reptiles and snakes stories that had me in stitches, hearing how the curator of the British museum mistakenly identified an item he took there for them to see...

I will miss the security he gave to the people of Worthing which, whether he knew a person or not, he gave thoughtlessly, but most of all I will miss a man who became a very close and trusted friend and confidant and whose name I will always remember and hold in honour and high esteem. There are not many people in life you meet like this man.

**Mark**

I was deeply saddened to learn of the untimely death of Gil. Gil was so much a part of Worthing, a helping hand to so many with a steely determination to see social injustice and environmental wrongs challenged. He will be greatly missed by all.

**John Hughes**

Gil would help people even if it was an inconvenience to himself. Gil, you see, loved people. He was a real humanist. Gil wanted to do all he could to help others, even if it sometimes seemed they would never achieve anything or get better. To him, it was worth it for the small moments when he could help people relax, feel safe, or not feel like they were stupid or being looked down on. Gil was always there for the lost, the frightened, the lonely, the homeless, the addicts and the sick.

It did not matter who you were or how much you did or didn't have, Gil would be there if you asked for his help. I know this because he helped me. To Gil, all were equal. No one should be superior to another, everyone should be listened to and be allowed to express themselves. Everyone had the ability within them to be an asset in some way to others, everyone had the possibility to achieve and everyone had the right to feel safe, secure and not to feel alone.

When I first came to Worthing as a teenager, I felt very lost and alone. I met Gil at a Socialist meeting and we quickly became friends. He helped me through some very dark times by spending time with me, sitting and talking to me and giving me hope. He was there for me when I was depressed and lonely and he spent hours helping me get the practical and financial support I needed. He was always there for me.

12 years later, when my girlfriend and I had bricks thrown through our bedroom window late at night, smashing glass all over our bed, it was Gil who came over at 2am to help us.

**[www.eco-action.org/porkbolter](http://www.eco-action.org/porkbolter)**

When I was run over at a protest to save Titnore Woods, Gil was there to help me. I have so many good memories of this kind man, of his love of chess, cacti, politics and protests for human and environmental rights.

A champion of the people and scourge of council and government small mindedness, pettiness and jobsworths, Gil did so much to advocate for people and help them get the treatment they deserved.

His dream was a world without leaders, where everyone works together in the spirit of unity, solidarity, Ubuntu (an African word meaning 'humanity to others'). He was a real mench, a Socialist in its most literal sense and a true Anarchist. An inspiration to us all. He will be much missed by all his friends and family, who will carry on the good work he did to help others.

**Colin Wright**

Whilst I was only involved with Worthing Anarchists for about a year, I was proud to be able to call Gil a comrade, and more importantly a friend. He was a fine, brave and wise man with a great sense of humour, driven by social justice, and full of stories for every occasion. He won't be forgotten by any who knew him - nor indeed by those in authority who came up against his formidable arguments and his determination. Michael Gilbert, I raise my glass to you.

**Paul**

Gil was an Anarchist who was very much rooted in the community. He was always willing to support and advise people in a down to earth sort of way. Gil despised all forms of hierarchy, and hated any form of social control. It seems to me that the "Stall" in Worthing was always associated with Gil. From now on I declare that Holders Corner should be renamed Gil's Corner. This would be an act of solidarity to enable us all to remember him.

**Dave Henbrey**

I was so very sad to hear of the passing of Gil. He was a very good person, generous with his time and genuine in his commitments. Gil really cared about people and he found so many ways to help those who needed a kind friend and advocate against the stupefying rules of the system.

**Joy Hurcombe**

It's really sad to hear about Gil. Having worked with him in my early days of activism on the south coast I can understand your sense of loss and the wider loss to the Worthing activist scene.

**Luke**

Although well versed in anarchist theory and history, it was not the writers and theoreticians whom Gil most admired - it was the men of action. Men like Emiliano Zapata, the Mexican revolutionary, Nestor Makhno, the Ukrainian anarchist guerrilla and Buenaventura Durruti, the inspiring anarchist fighter in the Spanish Revolution of 1936-1939.

The attitude of all these heroes can be summed up in the anarchist slogan "It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees!", which Gil heartily endorsed.

Gil certainly didn't live on his knees. As well as his political involvement, he was a relentless crusader against every aspect of petty repression, discrimination and exploitation that he encountered in his day-to-day life.

A thorn in the side of the uncaring authorities, he was also a guardian angel for many people who came to rely on his guidance and support. It was this practical dedication to mutual aid, to human solidarity, that made Gil such a genuine and exemplary anarchist.

**[www.worthinganarchists.blogspot.com](http://www.worthinganarchists.blogspot.com)**

## What is The Porkbolter?

THE PORKBOLTER is an independent newsletter, named after the ancient term for Worthing residents, that has a rather old-fashioned obsession with right and wrong. To get the next six issues through the post send a donation of £3 or more payable to The Porkbolter at PO Box 4144, Worthing BN14 7NZ. You can also pick up a copy at 'Green' at 63 Victoria Road, Worthing (near the station). Or read it at [www.eco-action.org/porkbolter](http://www.eco-action.org/porkbolter), which also includes a regularly updated events section. We also run an email list, which you can join for free via [porkbolter@eco-action.org](mailto:porkbolter@eco-action.org).

**[porkbolter@eco-action.org](mailto:porkbolter@eco-action.org)**